

*REMARKS*

In response to the Official Action mailed May 21, 2003, Applicants amend their application and request reconsideration. No claims are added or cancelled so that claims 2-4, 6-15, 17, and 19 remain pending.

The drawings were objected to as not showing every feature of the claims, namely the second pair of inner wall surfaces converging as described in claims 4 and 9. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The questioned claim limitation is fully supported by the description in the patent application as filed most clearly with respect to Figures 20 and 22. The Examiner's attention is directed to page 74, lines 1-14 of the patent application. The first pair of converging walls, which are generally vertical in Figure 22, are described in that passage. The second pair of walls are transverse to the first pair of walls. The objection to the drawing should be withdrawn.

All examined claims were rejected as indefinite based upon language within claim 15 concerning the term "longitudinal direction". Claim 15 has been amended for clarity.

As shown in many figures of the patent application, for example Figures 6(a) in conjunction with Figure 6(b), and Figures 7(a)-8(b), 10, 12(a), 12(b) and 20-23, the measuring duct in the post has a non-circular fluid introduction port. The fluid introduction port is elongated, i.e., has a larger dimension, in one direction than in a transverse direction. The language of the claim is fully supported by the original disclosure. The longitudinal direction is given reference number 94 in Figures 34(a)-34(f) and is described expressly in the passage from page 86, line 14 through page 87, line 16 of the patent application. The same passage defines the "transverse" direction. The elongated shape has been defined more specifically in amended claim 15, the only pending independent claim, in a way that is entirely consistent with the cited disclosure. In view of the clarifying amendment of claim 15, the rejection as to form as to all examined claims is overcome.

The assertion that claims 4 and 9 were unclear as to how the second pair of inner wall surfaces are converging is overcome with regard to the explanation concerning the drawing objection. The description of Figure 22 appearing at page 74 of the patent application, and Figures 20 and 22 show and describe an example of these walls. In these claims, the first pair of converging inner wall surfaces are *not* described as having a curved profile. It is the second pair of generally smooth converging inner surfaces that are described as having a curved profile. Thus, the first pair of generally smooth, converging inner wall surfaces may

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simply be planar, as shown in the figures, so there is no possibility that the claim is indefinite or cannot be understood.

All examined claims were rejected as anticipated by Uramachi et al (U.S. Patent 6,240,775, hereinafter Uramachi). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

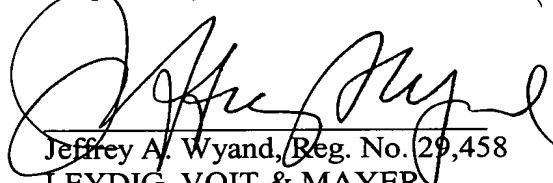
The inventors of the present application are identical to the inventors of Uramachi and Uramachi and the present patent application are commonly assigned. The present patent application was filed within one year of the filing date of Uramachi. Therefore, Uramachi cannot be prior art pursuant to 35 USC 102(b), as cited by the Examiner.

Uramachi cannot be prior art pursuant to 35 USC 102(a) because that patent does not demonstrate that the present invention was known "by others" before the invention by the present applicants, the inventors of Uramachi. For the same reason, Uramachi cannot be prior art under 35 USC 102(e). Thus, the rejection must be withdrawn because Uramachi cannot be an anticipatory prior art under any potentially applicable section of 35 USC 102.

Even if Uramachi were available as prior art, to anticipate the claims, Uramachi would have to describe every element of the claims. Uramachi fails that stringent test at least with regard to the shape of the fluid introduction port and therefore cannot anticipate any pending claim. It is sufficient to note that the fluid introduction ports in Uramachi are shown only as circular and therefore cannot have any elongated shape.

Reconsideration, withdrawal of the rejection, and allowance of all pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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